

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 BANGUI 01987 121150Z

ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07  
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15  
USIA-06 OMB-01 TRSE-00 ACDA-07 IO-13 NEA-10 EUR-12  
/100 W

-----057803 121157Z /45

R 121050Z SEP 77

FM AMEMBASSY BANGUI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9245

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGUI 1987

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, UR, SO, ET

SUBJ: DRAWING AFRICAN ATTENTION TO SOVIET ACTIVITIES IN THE HORN

REF: STATE 210166

1. THE AMBASSADOR HAS DISCUSSED SOVIET ACTIVITIES IN AFRICA WITH EMPEROR BOKASSA IN THE PAST AND WOULD PROBABLY BE AS WELL PLACED AS ANYBODY TO DO IT AGAIN WERE IT NOT FOR PROBLEMS WHICH HAVE ARISEN IN OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS WITH THE CAE AS A RESULT OF THE DETENTION OF THE TWO WESTERN JOURNALISTS, RANDAL AND GOLDSMITH. THE FRENCH, EGYPTIANS AND SUDANESE WOULD APPEAR IN THE BEST POSITIONS NOW TO RAISE THE MATTER WITH BOKASSA.

2. WE DOUBT, HOWEVER, THAT BOKASSA WILL SPEAK OUT AGAINST SOVIET ACTIVITIES IN THE HORN. WHILE HE IS STRONGLY ANTI-COMMUNIST, HE DOES NOT GO OUT OF HIS WAY PUBLICLY TO ANTAGONIZE THE SOVIETS EXCEPT IN SUPPORT OF A PARTICULARLY CLOSE FRIEND, SUCH AS ZAIRE. MOREOVER, BOKASSA'S POSITION IN PRINCIPLE THAT COLONIAL FRONTIERS SHOULD BE RESPECTED WOULD ARGUE FOR SUPPORT OF ETHIOPIA, WHICH IS NOW THE MAJOR RECIPIENT OF SOVIET ARMS.

3. BOKASSA IS PROBABLY AWARE OF SOVIET ACTIVITIES IN THE HORN  
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AS A RESULT OF EXTENSIVE COVERAGE IN FRENCH AND OTHER MEDIA, AND WE HAVE DRAWN THE ATTENTION OF THE WORKING LEVELS OF THE FOREIGN MINISTRY TO THE SOVIET ARMS SUPPLY TO BOTH SIDES.  
SMITH

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
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